

Fuller Torrey, a psychiatrist who campaigns for better mental-health care through the Treatment Advocacy Center in Arlington, VA., says that of the 2 to 2.5 million Americans with schizophrenia, "40 percent are not receiving treatment on any given day." Cases like Mr. Weston's—in which a mental patient eludes follow-up care and medication after a hospital release—number "in the hundreds of thousands."

How does this happen? Nearly as heartbreaking as the preventable murders of officers Chestnut and Gibson is the plight of Mr. Weston's family. They obviously love their child; they knew he was sick; they wanted to get him help. But, as Russell Sr. said: "He was a grown man. We couldn't hold him down and force the pills into him." A comprehensive system of mental-health services, including support for parents with sick adult children who refuse treatment, doesn't exist. If it had, the Westons might have had more success in rescuing their son—as might the equally loving family of Michael Laudor, the Yale Law School prodigy charged last month with murdering his fiancée.

That safety-net system doesn't exist because mental illness is still in our culture's shadows—stigmatized, misunderstood and therefore the beggar of American health care. Though Mr. Weston's home state of Montana offers particularly skimpy services, the national baseline is "not high," says Dr. Torrey. Poorly covered by health insurance and spottily served by overcrowded and underfinanced public institutions, mental illness is "the last discrimination," as Michael Faenza of the National Mental Health Association puts it, even though we now have the science to treat mental illness at a success rate comparable to physical illness.

It's not only politicians who are complicit in this discrimination. The media sometimes compound the ignorance that feeds it. Too many commentators look at Mr. Weston's symptoms—such as his paranoid delusions about the CIA—and lump him in with gun-toting, anti-government ideologies, making no distinction between the clinically ill and political extremists. A Time reporter, on the hapless CNN show "Newsstand," expressed surprise that Mr. Weston would so easily be diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic given that he had no previous "episodes of violence."

In fact, the majority of those ill with paranoid schizophrenia are not violent, and the disease has no ideology. As Sylvia Nasar's new book, "A Beautiful Mind," documents, many of Mr. Weston's oddest symptoms (including the conviction he was being beamed encrypted messages) also characterized the paranoid schizophrenia of John Nash, the brilliant, nonviolent Princeton mathematician who won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1994.

Back in 1835, one of the very first patients at Washington's Government Hospital for the Insane—as St. Elizabeth's Hospital was then known—was Richard Lawrence, a pistol-armed man who tried and failed to assassinate Andrew Jackson in the Capitol's Rotunda and was then pronounced not guilty by reason of insanity in a trial whose jury deliberations took five minutes. More than a century and a half of medical and economic advances later, what kind of progress is it that we still so often fail to treat the mentally ill until after tragedy strikes?

RETIREMENT OF COMMISSIONER JOHN WARREN MCGARRY

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Warren McGarry, a friend and a devoted public servant. This past month, Commissioner John Warren McGarry, a long time member of the Federal Election Commission, retired from the United States Government.

Commissioner McGarry, a native of Massachusetts, retires after twenty years of outstanding public service to the agency. Commissioner McGarry brought to the Federal Election Commission a reputation for excellence in election law and leaves behind a legacy of superior support for public disclosures and uniform enforcement of America's campaign finance laws. His pivotal contributions in all the major FEC's deliberations and decisions balancing fundamental First Amendment interests against the long recognized compelling governmental interests in ensuring elections free from real or apparent corruption, will remain a testament to his years of public service during the administration of four different Presidents.

John, on behalf of many in Congress, thank you for over twenty years of patriotic service to the American people and the institution of free elections. Your contributions and dedication to the even handed enforcement of election law will be greatly missed. I have enjoyed working with you over the years. My sincere congratulations and best wishes go out to you and your family.

PROPOSITION 227

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, this past Friday, federal courts in California refused to block the implementation of Proposition 227, which will ban bilingual education. This initiative was passed with an approval of 61 percent from California voters, and it will replace the 30 year-old bilingual education system with one that favors English-only instruction.

Nationwide, 3.2 million students are classified as being of limited English proficiency, including almost 1.4 million in California. Communicating with each other is vital to our national unity, and teaching our children is vital to the future of our nation. In a vast diverse country such as ours, it is essential that we encourage our citizens to develop a national identity. Teaching our children through a common language is a key factor in achieving this goal.

I strongly believe one of America's greatest assets is our variety of backgrounds. I believe just as strongly that teaching our children with a common language will serve as a common thread to unite our Nation. And it is imperative that all Americans have the ability and skill to communicate in English if they are to work in the American labor force.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to supply our children with the best education possible. As a

father, grandfather, and former member of the Carlsbad school board, I have a personal interest in providing quality educational opportunities for our children. Nothing is more important to the success and prosperity of our Nation than the quality of education we offer our children. I commend those many, many citizens that have worked to ensure through Proposition 227, that every child in California can learn in English and have the chance to live their American Dream.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ERNEST A. YOUNG—DEPUTY TO THE COM- MANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY AVIATION & MISSILE COMMAND

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ernest Young, Deputy to the Commanding General at the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command in Huntsville, AL. Mr. Young is planning to retire this year after 42 years of outstanding work in the Civil Service. This afternoon in Huntsville, a special ceremony will be held to honor Mr. Young and recognize his distinguished career. It is a fitting tribute for one who has made such an enormous contribution to his community and his country.

Born in South Carolina, Ernie Young graduated magna cum laude from Furman University with a bachelor's of science degree in physics. He went on to receive a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Young began his Civil Service career in 1956. He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1981. He has held a wide variety of critical positions, culminating in his current assignment as Deputy to the Commanding General at AMCOM. In this position, Mr. Young has provided a wealth of experience, integrity, and leadership. From policy development through program execution to mission accomplishment, Mr. Young has done a truly extraordinary job in pursuit of the goals and objectives of this command.

Mr. Young's previous assignments were as Deputy for Procurement and Readiness, Assistant Deputy for Readiness, and Deputy Director for Maintenance and Engineering. During the early 1970's, he was assigned to United Technologies as a participant in the Presidential Executive Exchange Program. During the early 1980's, he chaired the U.S. Army Missile Command (MICOM) Readiness Organizational Refinements Planning Group, restructuring the total logistics functions within the command.

Mr. Young was selected as the first civilian Deputy to the Commanding General in June 1993. He serves as Chairman of the AMCOM Resource Committee, Acquisition Streamlining Committee, Materiel Release Review Board, and the Training and Executive Development Committee. He also serves as Alternate Chairman on the Materiel Acquisition Review Board.

Among the many honors he has received include the Meritorious Civilian Service Award (1983) and three Presidential Rank Awards (Meritorious—1989; Distinguished—1991; Meritorious—1994).